

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/042,253

Examiner

RANODHI N. SERRAO

Applicant(s)

MUTO, SHIN

Art Unit

2141

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03 March 2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 12-15,27-30,38-41 and 43.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/William C. Vaughn, Jr./
SPE, Art Unit 2144

Interview Summary

1. A proposed amendment was submitted for applicant's consideration. Examiner suggested Applicant to amend claims as shown in the Examiner's Amendment below in order to place the application in condition for allowance.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with the Applicant's Representative, Edward Kmett (Reg. No. 42,746), on 23 April 2008.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 12, 27, 38 and 43 as shown below:

12. (Currently Amended) A data transfer processing apparatus which controls data transfer in a device, comprising:

a registration unit that registers reply destination information indicating each of a plurality of reply destinations, the plurality of reply destinations being different from each other and corresponding to a respective plurality of statuses of the device, wherein the

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reply destination information refers to an address to which an answer is transmitted in response to an electronic mail;

a status obtaining unit that obtains status information about one of the plurality of statuses of said device;

a message obtaining unit that obtains a message according to the status information obtained by said status obtaining unit;

a transmission data generation unit that generates transmission data according to the message obtained by said message obtaining unit, according to destination information indicating a destination address to which the transmission data is transmitted, and according to the reply destination information indicating one of the plurality of reply destinations, which is determined based on the status information obtained by said status obtaining unit, wherein the generated transmission data includes the destination information and the reply destination information indicating one of the plurality of reply destinations, which is determined based on the status information obtained by said status obtaining unit, the reply destination indicated by the reply destination information being a destination for a reply to the ~~the~~ ~~an~~ electronic mail; and

an electronic mail transmission unit that transmits as electronic mail the transmission data generated by said transmission data generation unit.

27. (Currently Amended) A device that communicates with an external apparatus, comprising:

a registration unit that registers reply destination information indicating a first reply destination of electronic mail corresponding to each of a plurality of reply destinations, the plurality of reply destinations being different from each other and corresponding to a respective plurality of statuses of the device, wherein the reply destination information refers to an address to which an answer is transmitted in response to an electronic mail;

a status obtaining unit that obtains status information about one of the plurality statuses of said device;

a message obtaining unit that obtains a message according to the status information obtained by said status obtaining unit;

a transmission data generation unit that generates transmission data according to the message obtained by said message obtaining unit, according to destination information indicating a destination address to which the transmission data is transmitted, and according to the reply destination information indicating one of the plurality of reply destinations, which is determined based on the status information obtained by said status obtaining unit, wherein the generated transmission data includes the destination information and the reply destination information indicating one of the plurality of reply destinations, which is determined based on the status information obtained by said status obtaining unit, the reply destination indicated by the reply destination information being a destination for a reply to the [[an]] electronic mail; and

an electronic mail transmission unit that transmits as electronic mail the transmission data generated by said transmission data generation unit.

38. (Currently Amended) A status notifying method of a device for notification of a status of the device by electronic mail, comprising:

a registration step of registering reply destination information indicating each of a plurality of reply destinations, the plurality of reply destinations being different from each other and corresponding to a respective plurality of statuses of the device, wherein the reply destination information refers to an address to which an answer is transmitted in response to an electronic mail;

a status obtaining step of obtaining status information about one of the plurality statuses of the device;

a message obtaining step of obtaining a message according to the status information obtained in said status obtaining step;

a transmission data generating step of generating transmission data according to the message obtained in said message obtaining step, according to destination information indicating a destination address to which the transmission data is transmitted, and according to the reply destination information indicating one of the plurality of reply destinations, which is determined based on the status information obtained by said status information obtaining step, wherein the generated transmission data includes the destination information and the reply destination information indicating one of the plurality of reply destinations, which is determined based on the status

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information obtained by said status obtaining step, the reply destination indicated by the reply destination information being a destination for a reply to the [[an]] electronic mail; and

an electronic mail transmitting step of transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data generated in said transmission data generating step.

43. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer-readable program used by a device for notification of a status of the device by electronic mail, said program comprising:

a registration step of registering reply destination information indicating a first reply destination of electronic mail corresponding to each of a plurality of reply destinations, the plurality of reply destinations being different from each other and corresponding to a respective plurality of statuses of the device, wherein the reply destination information refers to an address to which an answer is transmitted in response to an electronic mail;

a status information obtaining step of obtaining status information about one of the plurality of statuses of the device;

a message obtaining step of obtaining a message according to the status information obtained in said status obtaining step;

a transmission data generating step of generating transmission data according to the message obtained in said message obtaining step, according to destination information indicating a destination address to which the transmission data is

transmitted, and according to the reply destination information indicating one of the plurality of reply destinations, which is determined based on the status information obtained by said status obtaining step, wherein the generated transmission data includes the destination information and the reply destination information indicating one of the plurality of reply destinations, which is determined based on the status information obtained by said status obtaining step, the reply destination indicated by the reply destination information being a destination for a reply to the [[an]] electronic mail; and

an electronic mail transmitting step of transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data generated in said transmission data generating step.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 12-15, 27-30, 38-41, and 43 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In interpreting the claims, in light of the specification and the authorized Examiner's Amendment on 23 April 2008, the Examiner finds the claimed invention to be patentably distinct from the prior art of record.
5. In regards to statutory subject matter, the Examiner interprets the claim language of "a device" and "an apparatus" to be hardware as stated in the applicant's specification in page 10, line 24-page 11, line 17 which recites, "According to the first embodiment of the present invention, the case in which the device 101 is a printer is

described. The client apparatus 301 is a device configured by, for example, a personal computer (PC), etc., and is connected to the network 201."

6. **Goddard et al. (6,622,266)** teaches a user interface is provided to receive electronic mail addresses for printer alert notification recipients. The alert notifications to be received by each individual recipient are designated based on the underlying alert condition prompting the alert. Once all desired recipients and corresponding alert notifications have been specified, this alert notification configuration is implemented for one or more printers within a group of monitored printers (**Goddard, abstract, figure 2, and corresponding text**).

7. **Kikinis (2001/0044828)** teaches an e-mail processing application executable on a computer station having a video display unit (VDU) searches a received e-mail for one or more words, phrases, and addresses for comparison with stored words, phrases and addresses in a stored table, and upon finding a match in the stored table, inserts one or more of words, phrases, or addresses associated in the stored table with the words, phrases or addresses from the received e-mail in any reply to the received e-mail. In a preferred embodiment a "send to" address in a received e-mail triggers automatically one or both of a particular "from" and "reply to" address in any response to the received e-mail. In an alternative embodiment, a "send to" address in a received e-mail, as a result of a table look-up, automatically prepares and sends a new e-mail identical to the received e-mail except for a new "send to" address retrieved from the stored table. In alternative embodiments the application simply provides variable fields in a reply

window for a user to enter variable "from" and "reply to" addresses (**Kikinis, abstract, figure 2, and corresponding text**).

8. However, the prior art of record fail to teach or suggest individually or in combination the claimed limitations, a registration unit that registers reply destination information indicating each of a plurality of reply destinations, the plurality of reply destinations being different from each other and corresponding to a respective plurality of statuses of the device, wherein the reply destination information refers to an address to which an answer is transmitted in response to an electronic mail, correlating to page 24, line 24-page 25, line 5 of the applicant's specification which state, "Furthermore, depending on the status type of the device 101, for example, the mail address of the maintenance staff can be set as a reply destination address in case of a device error, and the mail address of the fixtures manager can be set as a reply destination address in case of a request to exchange expendables. As a result, an inquiry can be quickly issued to an appropriate contact depending on the status of the device 101." See also page 12, line 26-page 13, line 9.

9. These limitations, in conjunction with the other limitations in the independent claims 12, 27, 38 and 43 are not specifically disclosed or remotely suggested in the prior art of record. Therefore, claims 12-15, 27-30, 38-41, and 43 are allowed.

10. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ranodhi Serrao whose telephone number is (571) 272-7967. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/R. N. S./

Examiner, Art Unit 2141

4/29/2008

/William C. Vaughn, Jr./

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2144